Annual Report 2008

At the California Academy of Sciences...

Kimball Natural History Museum
Steinhart Aquarium
Morrison Planetarium
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

it's been an eventful year...

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and that's putting it mildly.

Our extraordinary new facility opened to the world on September 27, 2008, marking the end of the "Great Migration" back to Golden Gate Park. What began as a shared dream is now a reality—all thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our community, trustees, and friends like you.

From the moment we opened the doors, the success of the new Academy has been evident. More than 50,000 visitors attended our opening weekend celebration. We're well on our way to exceeding our initial attendance projections of more than two million people in the first year.

The new Academy is truly a one-of-a-kind institution, a global destination in itself. It's the only place in the world to combine a museum, aquarium, planetarium, and world-class research and education programs under one roof. (And what a roof it is!) It is a place where visitors interact with live animals, educators, and scientists. The exhibits are immersive and hands-on, and the collections aren't just kept in the dark, but actually used for research about the nature of life, biodiversity, and sustainability.

Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium, and the Kimball Natural History Museum provide a home for 20 million real specimens of life that define us and our planet. You'll find everything from a four-story rainforest and thousands of coral reef fish to a virtual tour of the Universe—and far more than we can list here.

In alignment with our commitment to promoting sustainability, we are proud that the Academy has been awarded the highest possible rating from the U.S. Green Building Council: a Platinum-level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The Academy is now the largest public Platinum-rated building in the world, and the world's greenest museum.

While the completion and opening of the facility is an enormous accomplishment, it's also the beginning of fresh new challenges. We must determine not only how to *live in* but also how to *live up to* the masterpiece of science and sustainability we have created. And we shall.

As we forge ahead, our focus will include increasing scientific literacy, promoting sustainability, contributing to public understanding of evolution, and researching and preserving the planet's biodiversity.

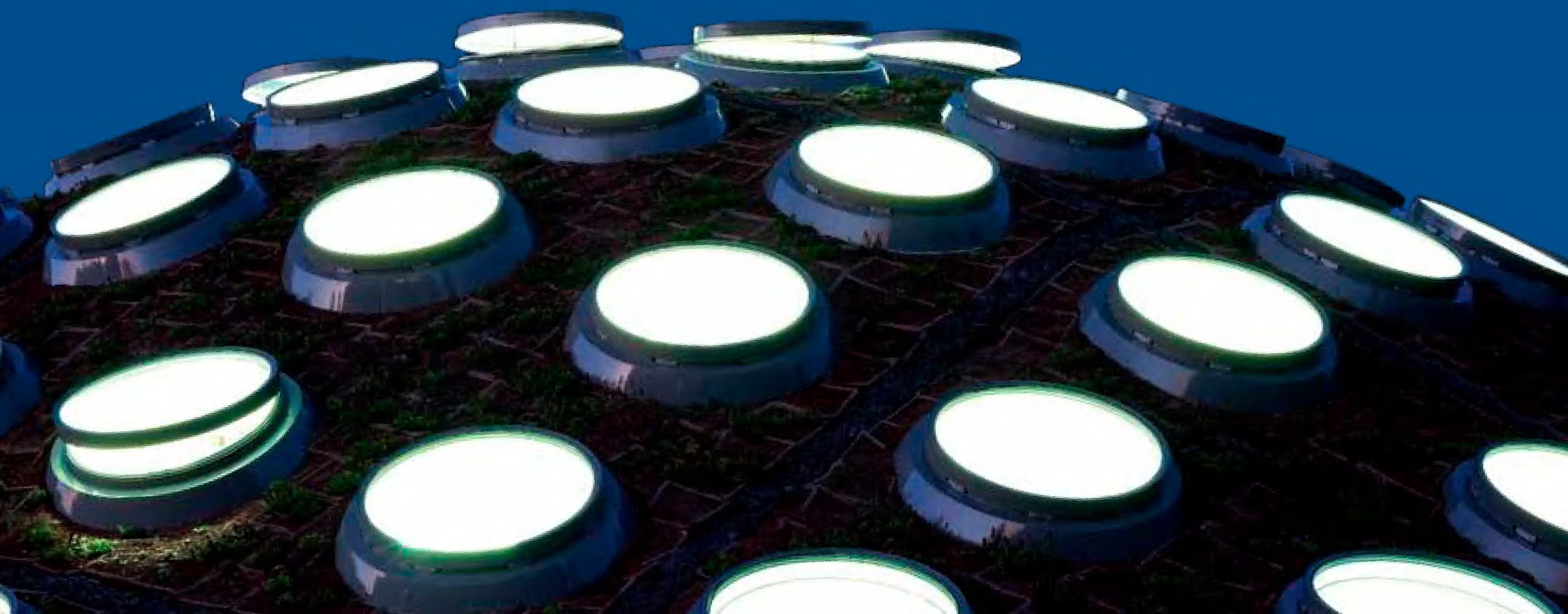
From the scientists and staff, to our members and generous supporters, to our docents and interns, we all have a part to play. We are pleased to say that we're ready, eager, and looking forward to an even more exciting future.

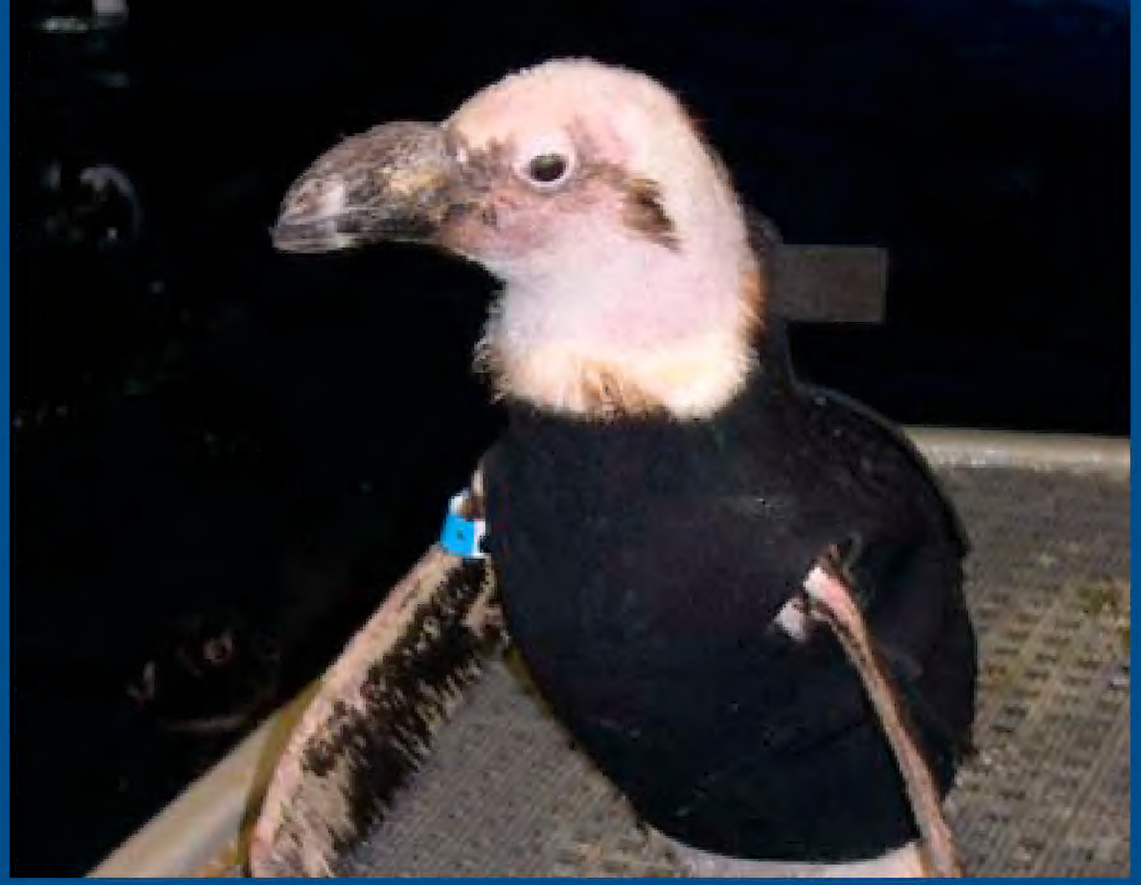
Greg Farrington, *Executive Director*
Bill Patterson, *Board Chair*

January
Scientists begin to move over 20 million specimens in the "Great Migration" back to Golden Gate Park.

January 6, 2008
Over 1,600 people participate in day-long festivities and say "goodbye" to the Academy's temporary location on Howard Street.

In 2008, the countdown to the grand opening of the new California Academy of Sciences begins.





February
Pierre turns 25 and receives a tiny wetsuit as a birthday gift to keep warm (and grow feathers back).

March
Nearly 3 million beetles, and over 11 million other insects and arachnids, are nestled into their new cabinets.

April
Ten rays happily explore their new home, the sandy floor of the Mangrove Lagoon.

The last of over 2 million fish specimens preserved in 200,000 jars of alcohol are packed and moved to Ichthyology's new collection rooms.

May
The Foucault pendulum is installed, and its 235-pound brass ball is set in motion for its first test run.

Press and accolades for the new Academy continue to build, including a feature in *Vanity Fair*'s "green" issue and inclusion as one of the "Top 53 Places to Go in 2008" by *The New York Times*.

Academy staff use the move to Golden Gate Park to proactively recycle nearly a ton of office supplies, electronics, and audio tape to Green Citizen, Purple Crayon, and Goodwill.

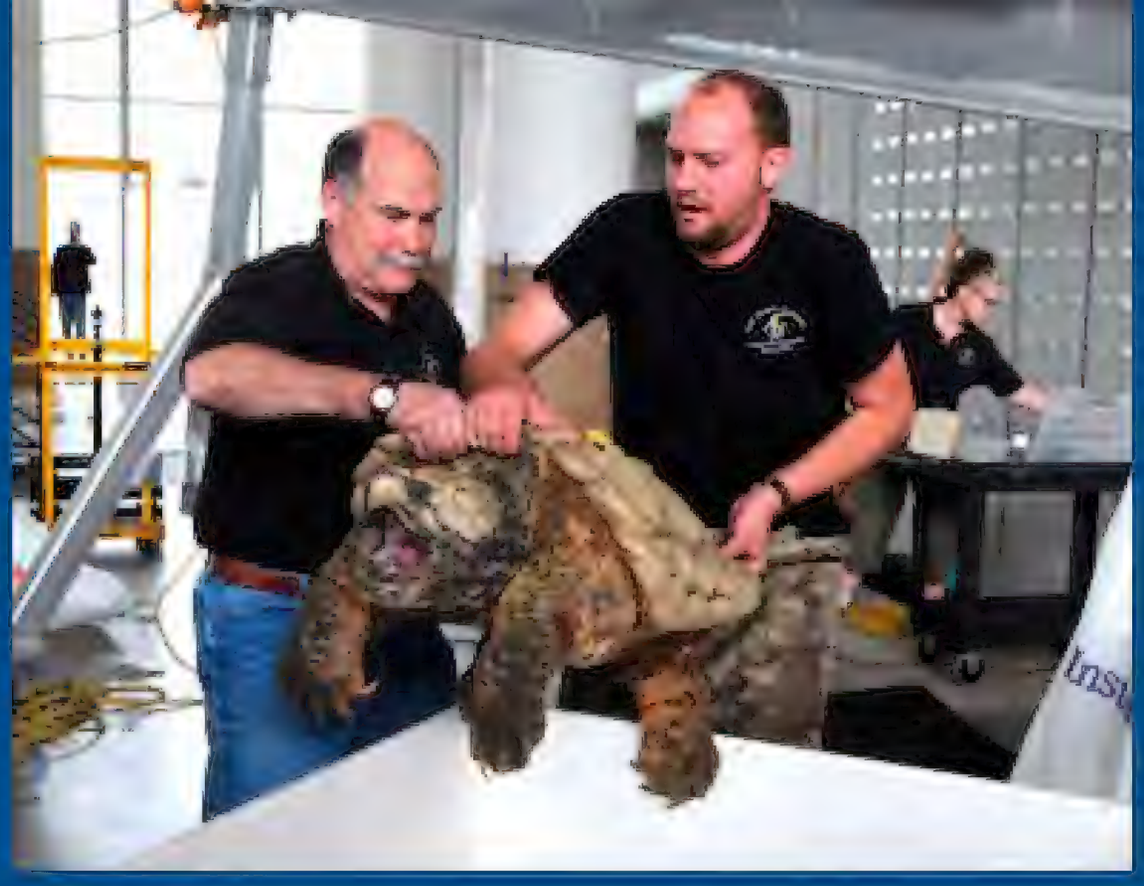
June
Aquarium biologists continue the long process of moving 1,500 live coral colonies piece by piece to their new home in the 25-foot-deep Philippine Coral Reef tank, including three large leather corals (*Sarcophyton* sp.)

20 enthusiastic penguins begin diving and preening in their new 25,000-gallon tank in African Center.

July
Painting of the African Center dioramas is completed and plant specimens are installed. Zebras, lions, and roan antelope are mounted in place and covered in plastic until their glass panels arrive.

Seven aquatic biologists introduce a 150-pound giant sea bass to its new tank in the aquarium, and an 87-foot long, 6,000-pound blue whale skeleton is suspended from the ceiling of the west exhibit hall.

August
Two American alligators, including an albino named Claude, are lowered over the bronze railing of the Swamp tank.



The last large animals, including the alligator snapping turtles, are moved in.

A NanoSeam projection screen and 290 seats are installed in Morrison Planetarium's 90-foot dome. Digital frames are completed and Sigourney Weaver records the voice-over for the planetarium's debut presentation *Fragile Planet*.

The final touches on the *Islands of Evolution* exhibit are completed in the east wing, as construction for *Altered State: Climate Change in California* begins in the west hall.

Cabinets are installed for Naturalist Center specimens, and a replica of the Academy schooner docks in the Early Explorers Cove.

Academy staff, from the aquarium to administration, form a "bucket brigade" and transport hundreds of sea stars, anemones, snails, crabs, chitons, limpets, and other invertebrates to their new home in the 100,000-gallon California Coast tank.

September
Over 180,000 Academy donors, members, and community affiliates attend 37 previews of the new building, including the Big Bang Gala featuring musical guests Elvis Costello and Matt White. Fundraising for the new Academy reaches 95% of its goal, totaling an impressive $466 million.

Registration begins for field trips and workshops, eliciting an extraordinary response from teachers and schools.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

2,000 fish in the Philippine Coral Reef

1,600 live animals flying, hopping, and swimming in the Rainforest dome

A 1,350-pound quartz cluster

230,000 books, journals, and maps in the Academy library

38,000 live animals, more than six times the number at the old Academy

One giant Pacific octopus

Opening Weekend
September 27-28, 2008

Executive Director Greg Farrington, architect Renzo Piano, Board Chair Bill Patterson, and Mayor Gavin Newsom preside over the Academy's opening ceremony. During the first weekend, over 15,000 people visit the Academy and 50,000 people participate in music and eco-friendly festivities in the Music Concourse.

In October 2008, the Academy receives a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum rating, officially making it the greenest museum in the world.

A Commitment to Research

Since its founding in 1853, the California Academy of Sciences has been motivated by the desire to understand nature, its processes, and the impact of humans on natural systems.

Through scientific research, the Academy strives to discover and share knowledge about the diversity and evolution of life. To accomplish this, Academy scientists travel the globe to study organisms in their environments, often bringing samples back for analysis.

A new home for research

While the new Academy building is a remarkable piece of architecture and the largest museum to earn a LEED Platinum certification, it's also the new home of the Academy's Research Division, including its unparalleled specimen collections. The collections span nearly 360,000 cubic feet and boasts over 20 million scientific specimens, from nests and eggs to skulls and fossils. The collections are an invaluable tool for scientists around the world, even providing access to extinct species, such as the elephant bird and the Falkland Island fox.

Multimedia features abound in the new facility, enabling the public to interact with exhibits and learn from the scientists themselves. Experiences that were previously behind-the-scenes are now out in the open to better inform, educate, and inspire.

The Research Project Lab on the public floor invites visitors to watch through windows and ceiling-mounted video cameras as scientists study specimens and conduct experiments. It's a unique approach that enables visitors to experience the "hands-on" nature of the scientists' work, and better understand the journey from collection to catalogued specimen or public exhibit.

New public initiatives include the Science in Action program, which works to inspire and engage the next generation of scientists by making science relevant to daily life. The program encompasses multimedia components and guest lecture programs.

Goals for the future

The acceleration of human-induced extinction and depletion of natural resources brings a new urgency to gaining knowledge of the natural world. This knowledge contributes to valuable, necessary applications that promote human well-being.

Organisms and the environment create the ecosystems that help ensure our food, water, shelter, and energy. Our future is not as independent from the rest of life as once imagined; without biological diversity, ecosystems are measurably less resilient to environmental change. Organisms also provide a wellspring of compounds useful for public health, medicine, environmental remediation, and energy development. Scientists at the Academy and elsewhere work to identify, study, and promote conservation of these organisms, before they and the useful insights they provide are lost.

A Brief Look At Recent Accomplishments

The Center for Comparative Genomics: A state-of-the-art DNA research facility

With the establishment of the Center for Comparative Genomics, the Academy is helping to lead the way in studies of evolution and conservation.

The DNA sequencing of plants, animals, and other organisms provides a better understanding of the origins and maintenance of life on Earth. The sequences are used to determine the evolutionary relationships among organisms, helping to create a biological "family tree."

In the past, biologists have developed these sequences using a handful of genes as a proxy for the entire organism. Now, the relatively new field known as genomics makes

it possible to look at the entire DNA sequence—or genome—of an organism. The result is a potential bonanza of insights into how the diversity that exists today was created, which can inform crucial conservation decisions.

With seven rooms, the new Center houses DNA sequencing machines and a High Performance Computing Cluster—a super-computer that can process in 10 hours what older computers took a month to accomplish.

The Center will also enable the Academy to attract new scientists who will advance the frontiers of this invaluable work. According to Dr. Brian Simison, Curator of Comparative Genomics, "The suite of offerings will attract new post-doctoral fellows, students, and guest researchers, and further enrich our scientific program at every level."

Mission to Madagascar: A new map for conservation

In spite of increasingly dire news about the status of the planet's species, the right expertise and information can lead to a conservation success story. Academy entomologist Dr. Brian Fisher and a team of international collaborators traveled to Madagascar, one of the most significant biodiversity hotspots in the world, to propose locations for new protected areas that would preserve the maximum number of species.

The expedition coincided with an opportunity to influence conservation decisions in Madagascar, whose government intends to triple the country's protected-area network. While the temptation was to base this expansion on the distribution of Madagascar's large, charismatic mammals, Fisher and his colleagues found that selecting areas based on that criteria would result in the failure to protect between 16 and 39 percent of the species in their study.

By running a complex algorithm, they were able to recommend protected areas that would preserve all 2,315 species in their study. The proposed solution also created additional coverage for the most vulnerable species on their list.

"Insects represent the bulk of terrestrial animal diversity but are often overlooked in conservation assessments," says Fisher. "This study is unique in including a wide breadth of animals and plants in its conservation analysis."

Final legal designation will not be completed until 2012, enabling Fisher and his colleagues to refine recommendations as new species are discovered, or as proposed protected areas are rejected or destroyed. This quantitative, practical approach to conservation decision-making is a valuable model for biodiversity hotspots across the globe.

A warming Arctic, an impending invasion

Approximately 3.5 million years ago, Arctic sea ice melted and opened a corridor for animals in the North Pacific to migrate into the North Atlantic.

Eventually the sea ice reformed, the Arctic corridor closed, and the migration of animals ceased. But today the Earth is entering another warm period, and climate models predict a nearly ice-free Arctic Ocean by the year 2050.

To determine if this re-opened corridor will allow a second invasion of animals from the Pacific into the Atlantic, Dr. Geerat Vermeij, Academy Trustee and professor of geology at the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Peter Roopnarine of the California Academy of Sciences evaluated 219 groups of molluscs in the Bering Sea and compared them to molluscs that had invaded in the past. Seventy-seven groups shared enough characteristics with past invaders to make them potential invaders in the future.

"The composition and dynamics will change," Roopnarine says. "But whether that will help or harm local fisheries is an open question. Humans may have to adapt as well."

The study is one example of the Academy's overall commitment to the importance of understanding climate change.

"Climate change is the largest and most significant problem that we will face in the foreseeable future," says Roopnarine, who is also lead curator for the Academy's exhibit *Altered State: Climate Change in California*. "It's something we should all care about, because we stand to lose a lot—especially here in California where our natural resources are so rich and beautiful."

Today, the need for groundbreaking research and unfettered innovation is more vital than ever before. The Academy's Research Division will continue to innovate, lead, and hold its position as the preeminent research museum that the Academy's supporters and the community have come to expect.

Above left: The Academy's Madagascar team crosses the Andohariana plateau in Andringitra National Park, where they collect a new ant species in the genus *Technomyrmex*. Above right: Alma Saucedo and Daniela Andriamalala, students on the Madagascar team, process material from pitfall traps at Mitsinjo in search of goblin spiders. Opposite: Primary DNA sequence data generated by the Center for Comparative Genomics.

NEW EXPERTS, NEW INSIGHTS

Dr. David Mindell

On July 1, 2008, Dr. David Mindell joined the Academy as the new Harry and Diana Hind Dean of Science and Research Collections. In this role, Mindell will guide the Academy's efforts to address two of the most important scientific issues of our time—the evolution and sustainability of life on Earth. He will oversee ongoing research at the Academy in 11 different scientific disciplines: anthropology, aquatic biology, botany, comparative genomics, entomology, geology, herpetology, ichthyology, invertebrate zoology, mammalogy, and ornithology. He will also oversee the care of the Academy's research collections—an invaluable resource that includes more than 20 million scientific specimens from around the world.

A leading researcher in the study of evolution and the natural world, Mindell has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to science education. He received his Ph.D. degree from Brigham Young University, and was a post-doctoral fellow at Tel Aviv University in 1986 and at Harvard University from 1987-1988. Prior to joining the Academy, he was a Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Curator of Birds at the University of Michigan and its Museum of Zoology. He has also written a popular science book entitled *The Evolving World: Evolution in Everyday Life*, which won the 2007 Independent Publisher Gold Medal Award for Best Book in the science category. His research interests include the evolutionary genetics and systematics of birds, conservation biology, molecular evolution, genomics, rates of evolution, macroevolution, coevolution of retroviruses and avian hosts, and the evolution and phylogeny of viruses.

Dr. Zeresenay Alemseged

As the new Irvine Chair of Anthropology, Dr. Zeresenay Alemseged oversees the Academy's 17,000 cultural artifacts and will expand the department's research program with his ongoing discovery and interpretation of hominid fossil remains and their environments. Alemseged brings impressive scientific accomplishments and a commitment to research and public education to the Academy. In 2006, he made an indelible mark in his field when he reported the finding of a 3.3 million-year-old fossil of an infant in his native country of Ethiopia. His work has been sponsored by the Leakey Foundation and the National Geographic Society, which named him an "emerging explorer" in 2004.

Dr. Brian Simison

As Curator of Comparative Genomics, Dr. Brian Simison manages the Center for Comparative Genomics, the Academy's molecular lab, which serves as the site of DNA extraction, sequencing, and evolutionary analyses. In his new role, Simison is upgrading the molecular lab into a state-of-the-art genomics facility. The lab's collection of specialized equipment includes a powerful computing cluster for statistical analyses of large molecular data sets. Simison's research focuses on the global phylogeography of limpets (Gastropoda: Patellogastropoda) and their mechanisms of speciation.

2007-2008 Research Publications

Academy scientists are continually at the forefront of research and scientific discoveries. In fact, in the last fiscal year, over 170 publications, abstracts, and reviews were published by Academy scientists in books, journals, and magazines around the world. Highlights include *Handbook to the Dangerously Venomous Snakes of Myanmar*, *The Ecology of Papua*, and contributions to *Phylogeny and Evolution of the Mollusca*, as well as features in *Science*, *Systematic Botany* and the *Journal of Experimental Biology*. For a complete list of published works, please visit www.calacademy.org/research/scipubs/.

Opposite: Comparing mollusc fossils with current specimens provides invaluable data on the effects of climate change.

An Extraordinary Learning Experience

Simply put, the Academy is about education. It's natural, then, that the Academy is committed to providing engaging and effective tools and activities that create exciting, hands-on experiences for citizen-scientists of all ages.

With the opening of the new building, the Academy is uniquely equipped to deliver on its mission to explain the natural world so that teachers, students, and visitors better understand how to protect it. The Academy continues to meet the growing demand and urgent need for science-based learning by providing an unprecedented new level of educational opportunities—and more than a few exciting surprises.

The days of the stand-and-stare exhibit are over, and the era of discovery has arrived. A key factor of the new guest experience is that exhibits, programs, and content are fully integrated on the public floor. Within the state-of-the-art facility, visitors can travel to four different rainforests, explore a coral reef, and discuss important issues with Academy experts. Even the youngest visitors can begin to develop a passion for science at the Early Explorers Cove.

The Academy is dedicated to keeping pace with the challenges and changes our planet faces, and the significant need for scientific literacy and sustainability. In the classroom and throughout the museum, the Academy will draw upon its world-class research scientists, educators, collections, and exhibits to deliver a one-of-a-kind educational experience.

Expanded educational capabilities include innovative teacher training opportunities, impressively equipped classrooms, and hands-on labs with enhanced technology.

Students at the Academy

The new Academy redefines what it means to be a natural history museum in the 21st century by making science relevant, accessible, and fun. Field trips to the new Academy engage students in scientific inquiry and empower them to be lifelong learners and stewards of the planet. The Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Fund for Enhanced Museum Visits helps ensure more San Francisco students benefit from Academy field trips by providing enriched visits for 4th- and 5th-grade classes. The visits include transportation, admission, educational programs, and lunch.

The new Academy's educational opportunities go more in-depth than ever before. School groups can book a fully equipped education laboratory for science investigations with an Academy expert. There, they'll enjoy unique, hands-on experiences with subjects like photosynthesis or animal biology. The laboratory is an exceptional resource for the many schools that lack access to science equipment.

Teachers can also take their classes on self-guided field trips, enhanced with resources from the Academy's Teachers' Website, including pre- and post-visit lessons, scavenger hunts, and sketching activities.

The Academy's invaluable volunteer educators, the docents and guides, also play an important part in student field trip experiences by providing a personal introduction to the museum and its exhibits.

Two internship programs serve as a link between Academy research and education, providing students hands-on experience and mentorship toward careers in natural science. High school and early college students in the Careers in Science Intern Program work at the Academy, engage visitors on the public floor, and conduct scientific work and field studies with scientists. For undergraduate students, the Summer Systematics Institute offers an 8-week hands-on collections-based internship in evolutionary biology, as well as one in Biological Illustration.

Teachers at the Academy

Effective science education begins with impassioned and knowledgeable science teachers. The Academy's Teacher Services program provides educators with an extensive range of services and resources, including professional development workshops and classroom tools. The Academy's model for professional development incorporates hands-on workshops to provide both adult content and classroom-ready activities that meet California Science Content Standards.

Along with ever popular programs, the Academy offers new workshops that complement the latest Academy exhibits. Eight new exhibit workshops focus on school field trip activities, and two BioForum events focus on energy and conservation biology.

The Academy brings teachers together to share knowledge and expand the reach and effectiveness of its programs, while providing a forum for real-world professional development. The new Teacher Institute on Science and Sustainability will serve as a keystone program in this effort. A group of 3rd–5th grade teachers will embark on a two-year program to become leading educators

Opposite: Students observe leafcutter ants in the Rainforests of the World exhibit.

of science and sustainability. Participants will receive an annual stipend and free membership to the Academy and can earn three graduate-level credits per year from San Francisco State University.

The new Teachers' Website makes a wide range of science resources easily accessible. Teachers can view tips for planning the perfect field trip, search a database of Academy-designed activities related to the new museum, download lesson plans, and keep up with their colleagues on the Teachers' Lounge blog.

The Academy goes to the classroom, as well. Teachers can arrange to borrow Academy Classroom Kits—portable containers packed with numerous classroom activities, games, specimens, books, and DVDs. All kits address California Science Content Standards and can accommodate classes of up to 30 students. The Naturalist Center provides a lending library on a number of biodiversity and environmental topics as well.

Education resources for the public

The Academy's educational opportunities aren't just for students and teachers. Every visitor has the chance to explore, experience, and gain a deeper understanding of the natural world.

The Academy's exhibits provide an in-depth look at the most important scientific issues facing the planet. For example, the new exhibit *Altered State: Climate Change in California* uses California as a case study to explore the science of climate change, the effects we might expect to see in our own backyard, and the steps that can be taken to mitigate these dramatic changes.

In *Islands of Evolution*, visitors can gaze upon real specimens of Galápagos tortoises and lemur skeletons from Madagascar. Children can play the role of a scientist as they try their hands at capturing virtual insects with interactive games. And in the newly refurbished African Hall, favorite dioramas sit next to living chameleons and penguins to create new fond memories and inspire a new generation of Academy visitors.

The Naturalist Center offers a welcoming environment to anyone interested in learning more about the natural world and sustainability. A biodiversity and environmental resource center, the Naturalist Center provides specimens, books, videos, hands-on activities, and trained Academy experts. Visitors can join a lively discussion about a science-themed book, ask an Academy expert to help identify a mysterious feather from their backyard, or even go on a scavenger hunt through the museum.

Learning opportunities at the Academy change daily, with scheduled events ranging from penguin feedings to planetarium shows to film presentations.

The *Science in Action* exhibit takes visitors inside the day's headlines to gain a deeper understanding of recent scientific discoveries around the world. Live talks by Academy scientists, audio-visual displays, computer stations, and online podcasts provide a reliable source of timely and relevant news about the natural world.

Of course, one of the most effective ways to learn about science is to become an Academy volunteer. Participants in the Docent and Academy Guide program receive extensive training in both scientific content and best practices of engaging diverse visitors of all ages. They are then qualified to provide hands-on interactions, staff live animal demonstrations, lead behind-the-scenes tours, help children and their caregivers learn about science, and provide invaluable assistance throughout the Academy.

Looking forward

The Academy is committed to providing the entire community with a truly unique way to learn. Its programs, workshops, opportunities, and resources are developed to enthrall and enlighten, and to create a lifelong commitment to protecting the natural world.

As science continues to evolve, so too will the Academy's educational programs, ensuring that this vital public source for scientific knowledge is always relevant, useful, and inspirational.

Above left: Teachers visit the underwater rainforest tunnel in the Academy's Flooded Amazon exhibit. Above right: A docent with students at the Discovery Tidepool. In interactive exhibits like this one, the Academy's docents and guides play a crucial role, passing knowledge directly to visitors through one-on-one encounters.

Inspiring passion for science in teachers and students

Answering many questions, fostering more curiosity

Teacher Services

The natural world is changing, and teachers are eager to stay ahead of the curve. The Academy provides professional development opportunities through classes and workshops on science-related topics ranging from sustainability to collecting ants in the schoolyard. Teachers can access the Academy 24/7 through their own website, which includes online resources, downloadable lesson plans, and student worksheets that make classroom curricula engaging and fun. The Academy remains committed to providing resources that enable teachers to continually inspire themselves and their students.

Mira Sinick, 3rd grade teacher at Lawton Elementary School, is enrolled in the Teacher Institute on Science and Sustainability. She wants to learn about recycling versus reusability.

Enhanced Museum Visits for Students

Whether taking a virtual tour of the Solar System or viewing insects through a compound microscope, a customized field trip experience enables students to learn like never before. With a generous grant from the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Fund, this program provides San Francisco 4th and 5th grade students with complimentary transportation and a "green" boxed lunch. Limited edition T-shirts provide free admission to the Academy for the rest of the year, fostering a new generation of junior scientists.

As a 5th grade student at Claire Lilienthal School, **Chelsea Nguyen** loves to study animals, water, and the sun. Her favorite part of the new Academy is the Morrison Planetarium.

Docents, Guides, and Volunteers

Over 700 highly trained docents and 1000 volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 93, play a vital role in Academy operations and the visitor experience. Easy to find in their bright orange lab coats, docents and guides lead tours, interpret exhibits on the public floor, and inspire visitors. Behind the scenes, volunteers work with staff and scientists to care for live animals, provide horticulture assistance on the roof, and maintain the scientific collections by mounting plants, pinning insects, and bottling specimens.

For over seven years, **Henri Lese** has enthusiastically served as an Academy Docent on the public floor. He loves having animated conversations with visitors of all ages and experiencing their "aha!" moments.

Naturalist Center Staff

From identifying specimens to helping students complete research projects, Naturalist Center staff members serve as a bridge between visitors and the Academy's experts. They're passionate about answering curious visitors' questions about the natural world and can even help identify that mysterious rock from the backyard. Staff members provide guidance through books, computers, microscopes, and consultations with scientists. They host monthly and weekly activities, including science-themed storytimes and sing-alongs for children, mystery boxes of specimens, and scavenger hunts.

As a Naturalist Center Co-Manager and its Senior Educator, **Roberta Ayres** knows the Academy inside and out. She loves answering questions about exhibits and the natural world.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

Becoming a world-class scientific and cultural institution in the 21st century is no small feat. It requires vision, commitment, and an army of mission-driven individuals working together to reach a goal.

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Where the Land Meets the Sea

Serving as inspiration for the timeline on pages 4–11, Maya Lin's art installation is on view in the Academy's west garden. Inspired by San Francisco Bay, this suspended wire landscape depicts the topography above and below water level. Trained as both an artist and architect, Lin gained attention with her design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This is her first work in the City of San Francisco.

Commissioned by the San Francisco Arts Commission for the California Academy of Sciences.

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The Academy is deeply grateful for the support and commitment of its exceptional community of donors. Their generosity enables the Academy to remain focused on its mission to explore, explain, and protect the natural world. Thank you!

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Laura & Mike Patnode

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The birth of their daughter, Isabella, caused these long-time supporters to view the importance of the Academy in a new light and become 1853 Society donors. "The Academy presents long-term value by increasing our investment in science and education and helping form the sort of world we want our daughter to grow up in," explains Mike. Laura is passionate about the importance of science education. "The biggest thing is to educate children about science. Especially girls. We need to make sure our children have the skills they need to solve problems." The Patnodes are committed to continuing their support as their family grows. As Laura explains, "We take every opportunity to talk about the Academy with friends and family. I feel good being associated with such a wonderful place and doing my part to promote it."

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Arline & Thomas Day

FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY, PLATINUM CIRCLE, EASTWOOD ASSOCIATES

Over a long career as a geologist, Tom Day saw the world. So when it came time to retire, he wasn't ready to sit still. "The first thing we did was volunteer at the Academy," he says. "The Academy helps keep your mind alert. You learn new things all the time." The Days feel the Academy is important for the next generation, too, and in addition to being Eastwood Associates, they have joined some of the Academy's most generous annual donors at the Platinum Circle level. "The Academy is invaluable for children," explains Tom. "It gives them inspiration, and they return to school with a new point of view." The Days feel their involvement with the Academy keeps them sharp. "It's a marvelous place to be when you retire," says Arline. "You keep in touch with the world. And things are changing so fast, that's important. It keeps us involved and active. It's so rewarding."

Andrea Gooden

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM MANAGER, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

"Our relationship with the Academy offers two things that are vital to PG&E's DNA," says Andrea, "making a difference in our communities, and continuing our role as an environmental leader." PG&E has supported the Academy since 1953, and recently committed to providing $1.5 million in support over four years, including lead sponsorship of climate change and sustainability programming. PG&E served as the sole sponsor of the new Academy's opening day, funding free access to the public. "We share a goal of promoting environmental sustainability and educating the community about how we all can take an active role in improving the planet," explains Andrea. "We're thrilled with our relationship. It truly is a partnership."

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EASTWOOD ASSOCIATES: *A vision, a passion, a legacy.*

The Eastwood Associates are a community of supporters who have included the Academy in their estate plans. Their legacy gifts will ensure that the Academy continues to nurture curiosity about the natural world. Membership is a lifetime privilege and Eastwood Associates are honored at special gatherings each year.

George Montgomery

TRUSTEE, FRIEND OF THE ACADEMY, AND EASTWOOD ASSOCIATE

George Montgomery's lifelong interest in environmental matters makes his support of the Academy and his role as Chair of the Campaign for the New Academy a natural fit. "Educating people about the issues of climate change and biodiversity is so important," he says. "The Academy is exploring, explaining, and advocating an understanding of our planet, how we got here, and where we're going." George encourages others to get involved, too. "I tell people to come to the Academy. They'll see people of all ages—from young children to folks in their 80s—gaining an appreciation of the natural sciences and the world. That's really exciting." George feels it's important to give back to the community, and explains, "Being an Eastwood Associate is an effective way for me to do it."

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Over a decade in the making, the new Academy is the greenest, most innovative natural science museum of the 21st century, housing 1.7 million native plants, 38,000 living creatures, and over 20 million specimens. It is the generosity of the Academy's donors that has brought this inspiring vision to life.

Paola & Charlie Casey

While the Casey family supports many community organizations, they've made the Academy a priority. "There's so much value in the scientific knowledge that's being created here," says Charlie. "We can all be really proud about the value that the new building has brought to the community." Paola appreciates the impact the Academy has on their young daughters.

ACADEMY GUILD MEMBERS

"They're fascinated with the divers in the big tank They just sit and watch. It's the only time they're quiet!" Charlie grew up visiting the Academy, and even celebrated his seventh birthday with a behind-the-scenes tour. "We care deeply about the organization and its mission," he explains, "and will continue to support it as much as we can."

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Mimi and Peter Haas Fund for Early Childhood Education
Supports early childhood education programs, including the creation of multi-lingual guides to enhance museum visits for our youngest visitors and their caregivers.

Harry and Diana Hind Dean of Science and Research Collections
Established the position of Dean of Science and Research Collections.

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Provides a lasting source of support for the creation, upgrade, and maintenance of public floor interactive technology and educational programming.

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As President of the California Academy of Sciences, John Hafernik oversees the organization's scientific activities, and the election and appointment of Fellows and committees. His goals include providing Fellows with opportunities to contribute to the Academy's mission, and fostering interactions with local universities and scientific institutions. Dr. Hafernik is a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University, and has a 26-year history as an Academy Fellow, Trustee, and Vice-President.

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David Halpern, Physical Oceanography
Alexander Harcourt, Primatology
Susan P. Harrison, Conservation Biology
Colin O. Hermans, Invertebrate Zoology
Kim M. Howell, Herpetology
Michael E. Irwin, Entomology
Wim Kimmerer, Estuarine Ecology
Richard E. Leakey, Anthropology
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James P. Mackey, Herpetology
Donald B. McIntyre, Geology
Kathy Ann Miller, Marine Algal Systematics
Carol W. Mosher, Chemistry
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Richard E. Packard, Physics
Lynne R. Parenti, Ichthyology
John S. Pearse, Invertebrate Zoology
Edwin P. Pister, Conservation Biology
Karl S. Pister, Civil Engineering & Education
Galen B. Rathbun, Mammalogy
D. C. F. Rentz, Entomology
George K. Roderick, Population Genetics
& Evolutionary Biology
Peter Rodman, Anthropology
Jose Sarukhan, Botany
Donald E. Savage, Paleontology
Evert I. Schlinger, Entomology
Howard S. Shellhammer, Mammalogy
Norman J. Silberling, Geology
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Leonard S. Sklar, Geology
Edward L. Smith, Entomology
Michael E. Soule,
Evolutionary & Conservation Biology
Rudolph Stohler, Invertebrate Zoology
Ignacio Tinoco, Chemistry
Tjeerd H. van Andel, Geology
Blaire Van Valkenburgh,
Vertebrate Paleontology
Robert E. Wallace, Geology
Robert C. Walter, Geology
Robert Wayne, Molecular Systematics
Harold F. Weaver, Astronomy
Cherie Wetzel, Botany
Frances Wilkerson, Biological Oceanography
Mark Wilkinson, Herpetology
Arthur P. Wolf, Anthropology
Richard N. Zare, Chemistry
Ermi Zhao, Herpetology

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statements of Financial Position: June 30, 2008 and 2007

	2008				2007
	Operating	Plant	Endowment	Total	Total
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,747,677	$ -	$ -	$ 2,747,677	$ 1,401,623
Investments	2,869,779	82,021,699	156,788,511	241,679,989	287,867,596
Receivables, net					
Research grants	742,388	-	-	742,388	755,566
Other grants	-	54,010	-	54,010	65,855
Accrued interest and dividends	-	643,813	370,191	1,014,004	1,244,853
Other receivables, net	763,927	2,767,360	-	3,531,287	7,302,481
Contributions, net	144,078	59,932,160	3,906,306	63,982,544	50,948,143
Due (to) from other funds	99,001	8,605,502	(8,704,503)	-	-
Inventory	-	-	-	-	22,390
Prepaid expenses	1,068,851	312,424	-	1,381,275	1,613,306
Notes receivable, net	-	-	5,081,209	5,081,209	7,776,088
Investments held in trusts	-	-	5,079,768	5,079,768	5,584,711
Restricted cash	-	350,000	-	350,000	350,000
Deferred bond financing costs, net	-	7,298,410	-	7,298,410	7,580,576
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	-	421,010,023	-	421,010,023	319,639,289
Total assets	$ 8,435,701	$582,995,401	$162,521,482	$753,952,584	$692,152,477
Liabilities and Net Assets					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	$ 1,038,425	$ 6,411,132	$ -	$ 7,449,557	$ 20,301,694
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	2,110,865	3,249,814	665,086	6,025,765	2,906,808
Deferred income	407,083	-	-	407,083	270,197
Annuities payable	-	-	1,988,399	1,988,399	2,224,858
Bonds payable	-	180,000,000	-	180,000,000	180,000,000
Other long-term liabilities	-	489,137	-	489,137	504,902
Total liabilities	3,556,373	190,150,083	2,653,485	196,359,941	206,208,459
Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)					
Net assets					
Unrestricted					
Available for operations	954,331	81,755,078	15,000,000	97,709,409	104,406,296
Designated for property and equipment	-	246,286,893	-	246,286,893	152,224,516
Designated for endowment	-	-	87,982,718	87,982,718	112,484,142
Total unrestricted net assets	954,331	328,041,971	102,982,718	431,979,020	369,114,954
Temporarily restricted	3,924,997	64,803,347	4,413,992	73,142,336	79,168,259
Permanently restricted	-	-	52,471,287	52,471,287	37,660,805
Total net assets	4,879,328	392,845,318	159,867,997	557,592,643	485,944,018
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 8,435,701	$582,995,401	$162,521,482	$753,952,584	$692,152,477

Statements of Activities: Years Ended June 30, 2008 and 2007

Change in unrestricted net assets					
Revenue and gains					
Admissions	$ 425,733	$ -	$ -	$ 425,733	$ 904,696
Contributions	3,447,125	38,113,365	265,000	41,825,490	24,671,793
Memberships	1,188,673	-	-	1,188,673	737,591
Tuition and program fees	487,985	-	-	487,985	696,332
Auxiliary activities	119,943	14,422	-	134,365	177,148
Government grant revenue	5,112,569	-	-	5,112,569	4,805,565
City and County of San Francisco	4,043,477	18,722,642	-	22,766,119	70,056,145
Net investment income	12,927	4,504,405	4,339,888	8,857,220	10,088,982
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(102,016)	428,326	(11,792,211)	(11,465,901)	15,955,206
Gain (loss) on sale of property and equipment	-	(58,226)	-	(58,226)	1,067
Total unrestricted revenue and gains	14,736,416	61,724,934	(7,187,323)	69,274,027	128,094,525
Net assets released from restrictions	1,494,128	35,902,089	757,860	38,154,077	28,280,518
Total unrestricted revenue, gains, and other support	16,230,544	97,627,023	(6,429,463)	107,428,104	156,375,043
Expenses					
Research	9,711,525	3,976,052	-	13,687,577	10,480,150
Public programs	5,404,340	1,177,857	-	6,582,197	4,146,203
Aquarium	6,008,004	876,656	-	6,884,660	3,718,024
Development and membership	1,914,297	2,514,277	-	4,428,574	3,346,690
Auxiliary activities	848,716	76,979	-	925,695	223,204
Management and general	3,211,006	495,284	-	3,706,290	3,753,419
New Academy and transition	-	8,349,045	-	8,349,045	5,980,544
Total operating expenses	27,097,888	17,466,150	-	44,564,038	31,648,234
Transfers between funds					
Capital expenditures	(7,165,250)	7,165,250	-	-	-
Other transfers	18,283,401	(211,440)	(18,071,961)	-	-
Change in unrestricted net assets	$ 250,807	$ 87,114,683	($24,501,424)	$ 62,864,066	$124,726,809

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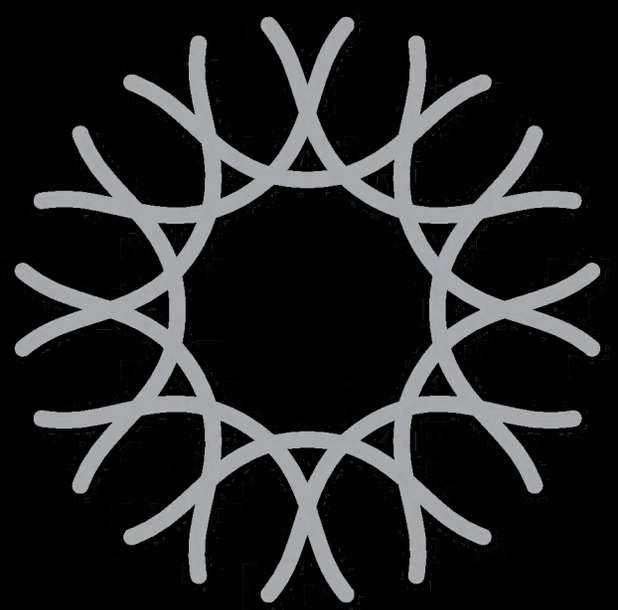

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